

Fort Smith Commissary Building  
Fort Smith, Arkansas  
Sebastian Co.

HABS No. ARK-16

HABS  
ARK.

66 Form

1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Arkansas

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**  
CENTRAL UNIT — ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Lawson L. Delony, District Officer,  
807 Pyramid Bldg., Little Rock, Ark.

THE COMMISSARY BUILDING

Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas.

HABS  
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OWNER: City of Fort Smith.DATE OF ERECTION: 1838-1842.PRESENT CONDITION: In good condition except for second floor where partitions have been added and removed.NUMBER OF STORIES AT PRESENT: Two.MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: Stone walls; wood columns, beam and joist construction; concrete first floor, wood second floor.

First floor walls are painted stone, second floor plastered.

The roof is slate, evidently original.

ADDITIONAL DATA: In 1818 General Thomas A. Smith, commander of the 9th Military Department, appointed Major William Bradford, commandant of the post and ordered him to erect necessary fort. Was completed in 1821. Due to the boundary line being fixed by the Choctaw Treaty of 1825, as 100 paces east of Fort Smith. It was decided in 1838 to abandon the old fort and build a new one within the boundaries of Arkansas.

The site selected is the site of the present city of Fort Smith. As a military reservation, the United States Government bought there of Captain John Rogers a tract of 296 acres, "having a front of 100 yards on the south side of the Arkansas River, immediately below the Choctaw line;"

which was to say, just east of the western boundary. 1A-  
The new fort was begun in July 1838. The original plan provided for a quadrangle enclosure 450 by 600 feet, walled with stone, with barracks, officers' quarters, etc., inside the walls. By 1842, though the fort was incomplete, the Government had spent \$120,000. Nor was it ever completed, though it was occupied continually until 1871. The town grew up around the fort. Captain Rogers, founder of the town, laid off 160 acres of his land in town lots in 1837. He had built already a large warehouse there; was then engaged in all kinds of "storage, forwarding and commission business." And, by December, 1842, the place had grown sufficiently to induce the General Assembly to incorporate it as a town.

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Written data prepared by Guy W. Swaim, District Officer, District No. 3, HABS.

Historical data taken from "Highlights of Arkansas" by Dallas Herndon, page 78.

Rev. Nov. 27. 36 T.W.